

REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM OF
MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

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OUR MISSION

To be the premier experience and best resource for information and inspiration about the lives of African American Marylanders. The Museum seeks to realize its mission by collecting, preserving, interpreting, documenting, and exhibiting the rich contributions of African American Marylanders from the state's earliest history to the present and the future.

OUR VISION

To share globally, and with integrity, the human drama of Maryland's African American experience.

OUR VALUES

We stand for integrity and truthfulness.

Our foremost concentration is education.

We demonstrate social responsibility and ethical behavior in our activities.

We approach all of our activities and partners with a sense of pride and respect.

We emphasize the importance of family and community.

Our behavior mirrors our commitment to inclusiveness and involvement.

R E G I N A L D F. L E W I S M U S E U M O F
MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Dear Friends:

When we opened our doors, just two years ago, our mission was to create a wonderful journey—a journey to open the minds, stir the spirits and fire the imaginations - by telling the remarkable stories of African American Marylanders.

That may have struck many as an ambitious mission. Indeed it is...but no more ambitious than Maryland native Harriet Tubman's mission to lead hundreds of slaves to freedom, Benjamin Banneker's drive to become a learned man of science and mathematics in an era when African Americans were denied the right to read, or Thurgood Marshall's courageous and successful courtroom battles against segregation.

We're very proud that with the help of many - our donors and members whose support helped turn our vision into an uplifting reality; political and community leaders who value the Museum as a place of great learning; our board of directors whose leadership is helping to shape the future of the Museum; professional staff and volunteers whose dedication of time and talent ensures the stories of Maryland's greatest sons and daughters are told – we're achieving our mission.

In a year marked by progress, we made great strides on many important fronts:

- We continued to support the education of school-aged children with our curriculum, African American Journeys now being taught in Maryland's school system.
- We hosted a variety of public programs which attracted more than 7,000 people, including our annual Kwanzaa celebration which brought more than 1,400 people from throughout Maryland to celebrate the holiday traditions of Kwanzaa.
- In addition to our permanent exhibits, visitors were inspired by four special exhibits:
 - Distant Echoes: Black Farmers in America
 - At Freedoms Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland
 - Harry Evans: Baltimore Urbanscapes
 - A Homecoming: Selected Works of Art by Earl J. Hooks

The Museum will remain steadfast in telling the stories of the towering accomplishments of African American Marylanders - those famous and those who toiled in anonymity - who managed to shape America's destiny.

Thank you for taking the journey with us.



Leslie King-Hammond, Ph.D.
Chair
Board of Directors



David Taft Terry, Ph.D.
Executive Director



THE MUSEUM

WHAT

The State of Maryland created the Maryland African American Museum Corporation. The corporation is constituted as a public instrumentality of the State of Maryland and an independent unit in the Executive Branch of state government. The purpose of the corporation is to plan, develop and manage a Maryland Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore City.

WHO

Maryland's Museum of African American History and Culture was renamed, by unanimous decision by the State Board of Public Works and Museum leadership, to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture. Reginald F. Lewis was a native Marylander who became the **FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO OWN A FORTUNE 500 CORPORATION**, TLC Beatrice Foods International.

WHERE

Reginald F. Lewis Museum and administrative offices are located on Pratt and Presidents Street - **A GATEWAY TO DOWNTOWN** Baltimore and the Inner Harbor—the city's primary tourist attraction.

WHY

EDUCATION – The Museum provides exciting educational programs for both children and adults. The Museum is especially proud of its partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education that developed the signature curriculum “An African American Journey,” and teacher training to reach more than 850,000 students and 50,000 teachers. The curriculum is being taught to students in grades 4-8 throughout the state.

PRESERVATION – The Museum's significant collection of objects that represent the history and culture of African American Marylanders, serves for the study and enjoyment of scholars, students and the general public.

TOURISM – The Museum, located at one of Maryland's most populated tourist attractions, Baltimore's Inner Harbor, provides an important venue to share Maryland's powerful and rich African American history with the world.

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS

The Museum features three permanent exhibition galleries which introduce visitors to Maryland's African American heritage with rare artifacts and photos, historical documents and interactive displays:

- Things Hold, Lines Connect: African American Families and Communities in Maryland
- Building Maryland, Building America: Labor and the Black Experience
- The Strength of the Mind: Black Art and Intellect

The Museum's expansive gallery space allowed us to present four special exhibitions in FY07. These exhibits were either designed by the Museum from its own collection or were traveling exhibits developed at other museums.

In FY07, the Museum was proud to present: **Distant Echoes: Black Farmers in America; At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland; A Homecoming: Selected Works of Art by Earl J. Hooks; and Harry Evans: Baltimore Urbanscapes.**





EXHIBITIONS SUMMARY

DISTANT ECHOES: BLACK FARMERS IN AMERICA

February 3, 2006 – November 27, 2006 RFLM; Traveling through 2010

Comprised of 60 photographic images taken by world-renowned photojournalist John Francis Ficara, Distant Echoes depicts the lives and working conditions of black farmers throughout the United States—a life that is slowly disappearing from the American landscape. Ficara's photographic essay includes African American farmers from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Michigan, chronicling a battle with economics and discrimination.

Crop, cattle, chicken, sugarcane, dairy, and tobacco farmers are highlighted throughout the exhibition. The images reveal adversity and endurance, poverty and self-determination.

The traveling version of the exhibit is currently touring the country and will be hosted by ten institutions in ten states through March 2010.



© John Francis Ficara

EXHIBITIONS SUMMARY

AT FREEDOM'S DOOR: CHALLENGING SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

February 3, 2007 – October 28, 2007



At Freedom's Door: Challenging Slavery in Maryland was developed by the Maryland Historical Society and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture in collaboration with the Maryland Institute College of Art. The exhibition, held jointly at the two museums juxtaposed historical materials with contemporary artworks to explore themes of slavery and freedom, including the legacy of slavery in present day society. At Freedom's Door included new works commissioned from internationally known artists such as William Christenberry, Sam Christian Holmes, and Joyce J. Scott. Over 30 undergraduate, graduate, and continuing studies students from MICA and Morgan State University, from varied artistic and ethnic backgrounds, participated in a two-year seminar developing and installing the exhibition in partnership with the professional staff of both museums. The exhibition engaged visitors in a civic dialogue on the modern issues of freedom, race, and social injustice.

At Freedom's Door was described as a "landmark exhibition" by the Baltimore Sun, and voted "Best" exhibition of 2007 by Baltimore Magazine and "Best Museum Experience" by Baltimore's City Paper.

A HOMECOMING: SELECTED WORKS OF ART BY EARL J. HOOKS

September 12, 2006 - February 16, 2007

Pulling from life's natural forms and fundamental experiences, Earl Jerome Hooks (1927 - 2005) sought artistic expression through the manipulation of shapes. Hooks worked at his art from his boyhood years until his death at age 77. Though renowned and appreciated worldwide, this exhibition represents the first major showing of Hooks' work in Baltimore, his hometown.



HARRY EVANS: BALTIMORE URBANSCAPES

March 13, 2007 – July 9, 2007

Harry Amos Evans, Jr. had an eye for seeing more than just row houses, buildings, and cityscapes. Instead, he saw a color-filled and energized place, which locals like Evans called "Balmer." This exhibition depicted and documented a metaphoric Baltimore, which Evans loved so dearly. Evans' play with color allowed him to give life to each architectural rendering, while acknowledging the significance of each structure. From brilliantly colored windows to opaque skies, these urban landscapes conjure places and times in history waiting to be rediscovered; places many of us would never experience were it not for Evans' wonderful interpretations.

EDUCATION



EDUCATION

The Museum interprets its mission to be the premier experience and best resource for information and inspiration about the lives of African American Marylanders. Through its education program, the Museum is committed to offering vast opportunities for learning to a broad and diverse audience.

Supporting the learning of school-aged children is at the core of the Museum's educational mission. In FY07, the Museum leveraged its unique partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and other key alliances to provide educational opportunities for school children.

In FY07:

- The Museum's elementary and middle school curriculum is **being taught in all 24 Maryland school systems**.
- The Museum developed and administered a Teachers Resource Guide to over 2,500 teachers throughout the state. The guide served as a resource for teachers planning a field trip to the Museum, with programs targeted to specific age groups. In FY07, **nearly 20,000 students visited the Museum**.
- The Museum hosted a weekend teacher's workshop which included the Museum's curriculum, oral history workshops and "What is an Object" - a program designed to help teachers understand the process of accessioning an object into the museum. There were **120 teachers in attendance, representing all 24 school districts**.

Other key partnerships in delivering educational opportunities included:

- Maryland State Teachers Association in hosting **Read Across America**.
- Baltimore Community College in hosting **Kids in College Summer Program**, a program piloted at the Museum.
- The Flag House and Isaac Myers/Frederick Douglass Museum in developing and implementing **joint school programming**.

EDUCATION



PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Through public programs, the Museum engaged a broad audience. In FY07, the Museum's public program series attracted nearly 7,000 visitors. The Public Program Series included:

- Signature Series: Focused on readings, discussions and book signings featuring writers and critics of arts, humanities and contemporary life.
- Generation Series: Intergenerational conversations about life, traditions and history.
- First Friday's Music Series: Individual and group performances by regional and national musicians and artists.
- Film Series: Screenings of educational documentaries and musicals by independent film makers.
- Saturday's Child: Monthly activities for children and families, which connect to the permanent and special collections, featuring storytelling, art workshops, musical programs and educational programs.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Museum's Resource Center continued to be an important source of information by offering a wealth of reference materials and online resources. In FY07, the Resource Center assisted in more than 500 research questions and queries about the contributions of Maryland African Americans.

Through the Resource Center, the Museum hosted programs such as: Maryland Author Day, Oral History workshops and Maryland Emancipation Day; underscoring its continuing commitment to presenting and preserving Maryland's unique cultural assets.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

The strength of the Museum's volunteers can be felt in every aspect of operations, from helping the Museum fulfill its education mission to developing new audiences by serving as community ambassadors. In FY07, 82 volunteers donated more than 3,300 hours to the Museum.





FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM CORPORATION
Statements of Financial Position
June 30, 2007 and 2006

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,090,876	\$1,095,163
Pledges receivable	209,000	319,000
Other receivables	40,907	47,626
Deposits	8,510	-
Prepaid expenses	<u>23,100</u>	<u>16,384</u>
Total current assets	\$1,372,393	\$1,478,173
Pledges receivable, net of current portion and unamortized discount of \$12,060 and \$29,586 for 2007 and 2006, respectively	\$120,940	\$270,414
Restricted cash	6,275,700	5,794,500
Property and equipment, net	<u>2,811,883</u>	<u>2,971,798</u>
Total assets	<u>\$10,580,916</u>	<u>\$10,514,885</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$389,510	\$241,326
Accrued payroll expenses	148,270	113,851
Accrued interest	945	2,169
Obligation under capital lease	35,403	34,178
Deferred revenue	<u>35,975</u>	<u>70,067</u>
Total current liabilities	\$610,103	\$461,591
Obligation under capital lease, net of current portion	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,403</u>
Total liabilities	\$610,103	\$ 496,994
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 3,072,418	\$3,163,101
Temporarily restricted net assets	472,838	836,298
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>6,425,557</u>	<u>6,018,492</u>
Total net assets	<u>9,970,813</u>	<u>10,017,891</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$10,580,916</u>	<u>\$10,514,885</u>

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM CORPORATION

Statements of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets Years Ended June 30, 2007 and 2006

	2007				2006			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenue and support:								
Grants	\$2,732,700	\$41,000	\$ -	\$2,773,700	\$3,027,507	\$199,000	\$ -	\$3,226,507
Contributions	288,997	9,910	407,065	705,972	445,384	131,992	374,956	952,332
Admissions	250,916	-	-	250,916	417,363	-	-	417,363
Membership dues	40,039	-	-	40,039	44,777	-	-	44,777
Rental income	200,184	-	-	200,184	284,282	-	-	284,282
Investment income	34,411	297,518	-	331,929	40,017	129,168	-	169,185
Other income	14,223	-	-	14,223	5,769	-	-	5,769
Net assets released from restrictions	711,888	(711,888)	-	-	469,713	(469,713)	-	-
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$4,273,358</u>	<u>\$(363,460)</u>	<u>\$407,065</u>	<u>\$4,316,963</u>	<u>\$ 4,734,812</u>	<u>\$(9,553)</u>	<u>\$374,956</u>	<u>\$5,100,215</u>
Expenses:								
Collections and exhibitions	\$646,247	-	-	\$646,247	\$676,911	-	-	\$676,911
Education and public programs	1,028,885	-	-	1,028,885	1,088,499	-	-	1,088,499
External affairs	470,992	-	-	470,992	596,940	-	-	596,940
Management, building and security	2,217,917	-	-	2,217,917	2,118,584	-	-	2,118,584
Accessions	-	-	-	-	6,000	-	-	6,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$4,364,041</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$4,364,041</u>	<u>\$4,486,934</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$4,486,934</u>
Changes in net assets	(90,683)	(363,460)	407,065	(47,078)	247,878	(9,553)	374,956	613,281
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>\$ 3,163,101</u>	<u>\$ 836,298</u>	<u>\$ 6,018,492</u>	<u>\$10,017,891</u>	<u>\$2,915,223</u>	<u>\$845,851</u>	<u>\$5,643,536</u>	<u>\$9,404,610</u>
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$3,072,418</u>	<u>\$472,838</u>	<u>\$6,425,557</u>	<u>\$9,970,813</u>	<u>\$3,163,101</u>	<u>\$836,298</u>	<u>\$6,018,492</u>	<u>\$10,017,891</u>

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